

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

**Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council  
Charter**

- 1. Official Designation.** Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council (Council).
- 2. Authority.** The Council is established pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10), to further certain provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and other related Acts applicable to specific bureaus. In addition, the Council is established to further the provisions of Executive Orders 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation" (August 17, 2006) and 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (January 27, 2021), and Secretarial Order 3362, "Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors" (February 9, 2018).
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Duties.** The Council provides recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries), regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that:
  - (a) benefit wildlife resources;
  - (b) encourage partnership among the public; sporting conservation organizations; Federal, state, tribal, and territorial governments; and
  - (c) benefit fair chase recreational hunting and safe recreational shooting sports.
- 4. Description of Duties.** The Council's duties are strictly advisory and consist of, but are not limited to, providing recommendations for implementation of Executive Orders 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation" and 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad"; and Secretarial Order 3362, "Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors."

In particular, duties include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Assessing and quantifying implementation of Executive Order 13443, Executive Order 14008, Secretarial Order 3362 and across relevant departments, agencies, offices, and making recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
- (b) Making recommendations regarding policies and programs that:
  1. conserve and restore wetlands, grasslands, forests, and other important wildlife habitats, and improve management of rangelands and agricultural lands to benefit wildlife;

2. promote opportunities for fair chase hunting and safe recreational shooting sports and wildlife-associated recreation on public and private lands;
3. encourage hunting and recreational shooting sports safety, including by developing sighting-in ranges on public lands;
4. recruit and retain hunters;
5. increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of fair chase hunting safe recreational shooting sports, and wildlife-associated recreation; and
6. encourage coordination among the public; the hunting and shooting sports communities; wildlife conservation groups; wildlife-associated recreation interests; and Federal, State, Tribal, and Territorial governments.

(c) When requested by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) in consultation with the Council Chairperson, performing a variety of assessments or reviews of policies, programs, and efforts through the Council's designated subcommittees or workgroups for consideration and approval of full Council.

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council provides advice to the Secretaries through the DFO.
6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the Department of the Interior (DOI) through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's activities are estimated to be \$200,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.5 Federal staff years support.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a full-time FWS Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and may chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

**12. Membership and Designation.** The Council will consist of no more than 22 members, four of which will be ex officio members as described in 12(b).

- (a) Eighteen members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the entities listed below. These members must be senior-level representatives of their organizations and/or have the ability to represent their designated constituency.
  - (1) State fish and wildlife management agencies;
  - (2) Wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations;
  - (3) Upland bird hunting organizations;
  - (4) Waterfowl hunting organizations;
  - (5) Big game hunting organizations;
  - (6) Shooting sports interests;
  - (7) Archery interests;
  - (8) Wildlife-associated recreation interests;
  - (9) Tourism, outfitter, and/or guide businesses related to hunting and/or wildlife conservation;
  - (10) Tribal resource management organizations;
  - (11) Agriculture interests;
  - (12) Ranching interests; and
  - (13) Veterans service organizations.
- (b) The 4 ex officio members will include:
  - (1) DOI representatives;
  - (2) Department of Agriculture representative; and
  - (3) Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- (c) Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretaries.

- (d) Alternate members may be appointed to the Council. Alternate members must be approved and appointed by the Secretaries before attending meetings as representatives. Alternate members shall have experience and/or expertise similar to that of the primary member. Alternate members may deliberate and vote on Council matters only in the absence of the primary member.
- (e) Council members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Council members must attend at least one Council meeting annually and cannot miss two successive meetings. Council membership may be forfeited if an appointee does not meet these attendance requirements.
- (f) The Council will elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson by affirmative vote of a majority of its members. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will serve a term of 1 year, renewable for additional years by affirmative vote of a majority of the Council's members. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may be replaced before his/her term ends by affirmative vote of a majority of the Council's members.
- (g) Non-Federal members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members and subcommittee members engaged in Council or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

#### **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.**

- (a) **Federal Members.** Members who are appointed to the Council in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.
  - (b) **Non-Federal Members.** Non-Federal members of the Council and subcommittees are appointed as representatives and therefore are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, non-Federal Council and subcommittee members may not participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

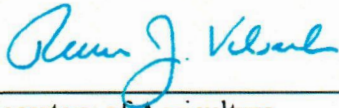
15. **Recordkeeping.** Detailed records must be kept of each Council and formally or informally established Council subcommittee meeting. All records must be made available to the public, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), and must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.



Secretary of the Interior

JAN 03 2024

Date Signed



Secretary of Agriculture

2/16/24

Date Signed

March 12, 2024

Date Filed